

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions in this application:

Claims 1. to 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A jewelry-forming component for preparing a jewelry article comprising a body member configured and dimensioned in an ornamental shape and having a first magnetizable portion for repulsive magnetic association with at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein the body member has a magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength such that the body member and at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component can be placed in different positions relative to each other, and wherein the further element comprises a retaining structure that includes a mechanical connection that prevents complete separation of the body member from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component when the first magnetized portion of the body member is magnetically repulsed from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein the body member has outer and inner surfaces, the at least one other jewelry-forming component comprises at least one dimensioning member that is operatively associated with the body member with the first magnetizable portion of the body member and the body member defines a cavity having a depth sufficient to receive the at least one dimensioning member such that the dimensioning member fits inside the cavity when urged therein by a person's hand strength but is magnetically repulsed from the body member with a maximum magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength, such that the magnetic repulsion between the body and dimensioning members enables the component to attain a first configuration wherein the dimensioning member is positioned remotely from the body member and a second configuration wherein the person's hand strength urges the dimensioning members towards the body member, so that the jewelry component can be adjusted to conform to the person;

wherein the cavity includes a narrowed or partially blocked opening and the mechanical connection comprises an extension provided on the dimensioning member that fits through the narrowed opening and includes [[am]] an end portion having a size or shape that is larger than

the opening so that the at least one dimensioning member cannot be completely separated from the body member.

16. (Previously Presented) The jewelry-forming component of claim 15, wherein the body is configured in the shape of a ring and the at least one dimensioning member has an arcuate shape that is complementary to a portion of the ring.

17. (Original) The jewelry-forming component of claim 16 wherein the ring is oval or round and includes between two and sixteen dimensioning members.

18. (Currently Amended) A jewelry-forming component for preparing a jewelry article comprising a body member configured and dimensioned in an ornamental shape and having a first magnetizable portion for repulsive magnetic association with at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein the body member has a magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength such that the body member and at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component can be placed in different positions relative to each other, and wherein the further element comprises a retaining structure that prevents complete separation of the body member from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component when the first magnetized portion of the body member is magnetically repulsed from the at least one other magnetic jewelry-forming component, wherein the body member has outer and inner surfaces, the at least one other jewelry-forming component comprises a plurality of dimensioning members that are operatively associated with the body member with the first magnetizable portion of the body member and each dimensioning member magnetically repulsing each other with a maximum magnetic strength that can be overcome by a person's hand strength, such that the magnetic repulsion between the body and each dimensioning member enables the component to attain a first configuration wherein each dimensioning member is positioned remotely from the body member and a second configuration wherein the person's hand strength urges at least some of the dimensioning members towards the body member, so that the jewelry component can be adjusted to conform to the person;

wherein the body is configured in the shape of a ring and includes a ramp positioned adjacent a dimensioning member to minimize gaps between adjacent dimensioning members.

19. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article in the form of a finger or toe ring, bracelet, anklet, choker, necklace, ~~earring~~, or watchband comprising the jewelry-forming component of claim 18 so that the article is self-sizing to the wearer.

Claims 20. to 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The jewelry-forming component of claim 18 wherein the ~~body is configured in the shape of a ring and the~~ at least one dimensioning member has an arcuate shape that is complementary to a portion of the ring.

49. (Previously Presented) The jewelry-forming component of claim 48 wherein the ring is oval or round and includes between two and sixteen dimensioning members.

50. (Previously Presented) A jewelry article in the form of a finger or toe ring, bracelet, anklet, choker, necklace, earring, or watchband comprising the jewelry-forming component of claim 15 so that the article is self-sizing to the wearer.